

Jack Hamlin Smith
My Dad (By Cliff)

Dad was born in Daytona Beach Florida on January 17, 1924, the son of Clifford and Margaret Smith. Having come late in life for my grandparents, Dad raised himself on the streets of Daytona, enjoying sports and friends. As a teenager, he became an excellent baseball and tennis player, and continued to love sports his entire life. In the 30's he used to be the announcer for stock car races held on the beach, the promoter of those races became the founder of NASCAR.

During WWII Dad was a warrant officer on a crash boat assigned to an air sea rescue squadron, and spent time in the Philippines toward the end of the war escorting ships. During his training he met my mother, Roberta Joan Jameson, and upon his discharge they were married. Dad attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, and my brother and I came along while he was in school. Dad graduated in 1950 with a masters in mechanical engineering, and accepted a teaching position at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis Maryland.

My earliest memories begin here.

From his obituary:

Mr. Smith was born in Daytona Beach, Florida and served three years in the Army Air Corps in World War II where he was assigned to crash boat duty in an Air-Seal Rescue Squadron. He achieved the rank of Warrant Officer. He attended the University of Florida on the G. I. Bill and completed a master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1950. Mr. Smith was a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD for 38 years. He was department chairman from 1982 until 1986 and retired in 1989. In early 1990, he and his late wife moved to Goldsboro, NC. He was a member of Goldsboro Kiwanis, the Air Force Association and St. Paul United Methodist Church.